

1 A RESOLUTION recognizing June 27, 2018, as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
2 Awareness Day.

3 WHEREAS, all citizens of the United States possess the basic human right to the
4 preservation of personal dignity; and

5 WHEREAS, all citizens of the United States deserve the investment of every
6 possible resource to ensure their lasting physical, mental, and emotional well-being; and

7 WHEREAS, the brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces who
8 proudly serve the United States risk their lives to protect our freedom; and

9 WHEREAS, the diagnosis now known as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder was first
10 defined by the American Psychiatric Association in 1980 to commonly and more
11 accurately understand and treat veterans who had endured severe traumatic combat stress;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, combat stress has historically been viewed as a mental illness caused
14 by a pre-existing flaw of character or ability, and the word "disorder" carries a stigma that
15 perpetuates this misconception; and

16 WHEREAS, post-traumatic stress injury (PTSI) can occur after experiencing a
17 severely traumatic event to include, but not to be exclusive to: sexual assault, child abuse,
18 high-impact collisions and crashes, natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and military
19 combat; and

20 WHEREAS, PTSI is a very common injury to the brain that is treatable and
21 repairable; and

22 WHEREAS, referring to the complications from post-traumatic stress as a
23 "disorder" perpetuates the stigma of and bias against mental illness, and this stigma can
24 discourage the injured from seeking proper and timely medical treatment; and

25 WHEREAS, making PTSI less stigmatizing and more honorable can favorably
26 influence those affected and encourage them to seek help without fear of retribution or
27 shame; and

1 WHEREAS, proper and timely treatment can diminish suicide rates; and

2 WHEREAS, all citizens suffering from PTSI deserve our compassion and
3 consideration, and those who have received these wounds in action against an enemy of
4 the United States further deserve our tribute and acknowledgement;

5 NOW, THEREFORE,

6 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the*
7 *Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

8 ➔Section 1. The House of Representatives is proud to honor the members and
9 veterans of the United States Armed Forces by designating June 27, 2018, as Post-
10 Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Day.

11 ➔Section 2. The House of Representatives encourages the Department of Military
12 Affairs, the Department for Public Health, the Department of Veterans' Affairs, and other
13 state agencies to continue working to educate service members, veterans, the families of
14 service members and veterans, victims of abuse, crime, and natural disaster, and the
15 general public about the causes, symptoms, and treatment of post-traumatic stress
16 disorder.

17 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit
18 copies of this Resolution to Governor Matthew Bevin, 700 Capitol Avenue, Suite 100,
19 Frankfort, Kentucky 40601; Secretary Vickie Yates Brown Glisson, Cabinet for Health
20 and Family Services, Office of the Secretary, 275 East Main Street, Frankfort, Kentucky
21 40621; Commissioner Norman E. Arflack, Kentucky Department of Veterans' Affairs,
22 1111B Louisville Road, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601; and Brigadier General Stephen
23 Hogan, the Adjutant General, 100 Minuteman Parkway, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601.